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ABSTRACT

This book is a comparative interpretation of the works of Vine Deloria, Jr., (Standing Rock Sioux) and John Joseph Mathews (Osage), two American Indian intellectuals of this century. In bringing these two thinkers together, the book lays the groundwork for a discussion of several crucial issues in contemporary American Indian critical studies: (1) the extent to which various conceptual and analytical categories currently available in American Indian scholarship provide an adequate framework for a mature Native cultural and literary criticism; (2) the impact of increasing awareness of and engagement with American Indian writers of earlier periods on the way that contemporary Native intellectuals develop Indian critical studies; (3) how construing the field in terms of intellectual history rather than literary or generic history changes the critical landscape; and (4) the extent of Native intellectuals' responsibility for addressing such issues as economic and social class, gender, and sexual orientation within Indian life. Examining the works of Deloria and Mathews provides a means to identify how contemporary American Indian intellectual discourse can confront the challenges of the present and future. The book's three chapters are "Deloria and Mathews in the Context of American Indian Intellectual Traditions from 1890 to 1990"; "The Violation of Sovereign Land and Community in Deloria and Mathews"; and "Intellectual Sovereignty and the Struggle for an American Indian Future." Contains references in chapter notes, an extensive bibliography, and an index. (SV)

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